

**PAROLEE SERVICES NETWORK
REGIONAL MEETING
Kern County Mental Health
3300 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield
January 13, 2010**

PRESENT:

Felicia Skaggs – KCMH Gate Team
Rashid Frye – WestCare
Lily Alvarez – KCMH SA Admin

Audrey Presley – KCMH Gate Team
Janis Cariveau – College Community Services
Cindy Coe – KCMH SA Admin

SUMMARY MINUTES:

1. **Introductions:** Deferred.
2. **Approval of October 14, 2009 meeting minutes:** Motions by Presley / Cariveau to approve as submitted; approved all ayes.
3. **Follow-up items:**
 - A. Page 1, item 7A: Ms. Alvarez reported she and Ms. Skaggs met with Mr. Stanton at Parole regarding a possible process to make PSN available for those parolees that are concurrently Prop 36, shifting those Prop 36 to PSN. The meeting went well. It was suggested at the meeting Ms. Presley speak to agents in both buildings. Ms. Presley reports she has made contact with the agent and frequently spends time in the other building, becoming more familiar with the other agents.

Ms. Presley indicated the agents report it is a problem to go from Prop 36 to PSN, because the case has to get approval from the Board of Prison Terms; an agent cannot just make a referral. Ms. Presley has also been reviewing charts to look at the number of re-referrals to Prop 36 and approach the agent with the information.
4. **State ADP Issues:** Not present.
5. **State CDCR Issues:** Not present.
6. **Kern County Parole Issues:**
 - A. Ms. Alvarez indicated she received information regarding a new parole model in which parolees are being released early; they are to reduce the parole agent's caseload from 70-90 to 47. These will be low-level offense cases that will be released early.



This will impact access to mental health services; substance abuse treatment has always been available to parolees. It has long been Mental Health's policy on the adult treatment side not to serve parolees, but refer them to Parole's own clinics. Local clinics will no longer be available, so we will have to serve them if they meet medical necessity criteria. The loss of critical ancillary services will place a burden on substance abuse treatment providers. Ms. Presley indicated they have hired new parole agents in the last few weeks. Ms. Alvarez responded the 47 that will be on an agent's caseload will not be low-level offenders. Mr. Frye agreed that the proposed design will be for the higher level offenders, which has already begun to affect the attitude of the low-level offenders. These low-level cases may gradually begin to become more aggressive due to lack of monitoring.

Ms. Alvarez questioned whether Ms. Presley should be positioned to be available as the gatekeeper for treatment access for any parolee, not just Prop 36 or PSN. There was a referral list created for felony probationers that could also be used for parolees. Ms. Skaggs agreed the list could be used for parolees to choose from, or be sent to a provider with the understanding it would be self-pay or on a sliding scale. Ms. Presley indicated a new process would need to be explained at Parole's PAC meetings with agents.

Ms. Presley reported she had five PSN intakes scheduled this month, where there were only three referrals last month. Mr. Frye indicated WestCare will be opening up more assessment slots for parolees.

7. Provider Issues:

- A. Mental Health: Ms. Alvarez reported the Meth Reduction Task Force will be kicking off. Supervisor Watson is very engaged and will be chairing the Task Force, with Supervisor Maben as co-chair.
- B. WestCare: Mr. Frye reported they are evaluating whether more slots should be available for PSN. The two residential Level 5 slots are still being underutilized, and have been for some time. Mr. Frye would also like to begin attending the PAC meetings at Parole again. Ms. Alvarez indicated they discussed the issue of slots with agent Stanton.

Mr. Frye reports staff report their Anasazi implementation is going well. There were only two suspensions in December; one of which was on methadone so could not be billed. Ms. Alvarez questioned whether the methadone client had Drug Medi-Cal and if he was PSN or Prop 36. The client had Drug Medi-Cal and was a Prop 36 referral, and got on methadone after being placed at WestCare. Members discussed that this client should have been discussed with his agent to advocate with the BPT to be placed in PSN; Ms. Presley indicated she did discuss the situation with the agent. The client was placed elsewhere and is in treatment.

- C. WestCare: Ms. Alvarez reported there were no admissions or discharges in CalOMS for residential; WestCare has a different license number for residential than for outpatient. When data was run for the residential number, there were no admissions or discharges for the year. It needs to be determined where the data is going; Ms. Skaggs and Mr. Frye will work to resolve the problem.

- Ms. Alvarez will look at WestCare's spending pattern, as it does not appear all of their allocation is being used. Opening more slots should not be a problem, and WestCare may open as many as needed.
- D. Mental Health: Ms. Alvarez reported Anasazi has a trauma screening embedded, which will help to understand trauma related to parolees. Providers agreed this will be helpful in understanding parolee trauma. Mr. Frye added that the client population may become more violent or subject to violence.
 - E. WestCare: Mr. Frye announced a CARF certification audit will take place this week for outpatient programs in their Fresno, Kings and Kern county facilities.
 - F. College Community Services: Ms. Cariveau had no additional report.
 - G. Members discussed referring parolees to those providers used for felony probationers. The parolees who do not have Drug Medi-Cal can be on a sliding scale and charged the same rate as billed to Drug Medi-Cal for the same service, and collect payment based on the sliding scale.

8. Mental Health Issues:

- A. Ms. Alvarez announced the PSN Request for Proposals (RFP) should be released within the next two weeks. The question of whether to continue funding regional areas when they are being underutilized, or fund just metro, will need to be addressed.

9. Next meeting April 14, 2010, at Kern County Mental Health Administration.

LA:cc

Attachments to original minutes:
None